(b) Data on cost production of iron ore is not disclosed by producers fro reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Production and Consumption of Natural Rubber

3919. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the natural rubber produced in the country is in excess of the domestic consumption;

(b) whether it is expected to increase further during the current year; and

(c) if so, the plans drawn up by the Government to encourage domestic use of rubber for various purposes such as using rubber in laying of roads etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Production and consumption of rubber during 1990-91 were 329,615 tonnes and 364,310 tonnes respectively . Estimated production and consumption during 1991-92 are 365,000 tonnes and 380,000 tonnes respectively.

(c) Rubber Board is taking various measures to increase the domestic use of rubber. The required technical advice to entrepreneurs for setting up new rubber goods manufacturing units, training in rubber products manufacture etc. are arranged. Board is trying to popularise the concept of rubberisation of roads.

Selection Boards

3920. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing discontentment in the Army with regards to the existing system of Selection Boards; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps the Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). There is no discontent in the Army against the existing system of Promotion Boards.

[*Translation*]

NTC Showrooms In Uttar Pradesh

3921. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has received any request to open some show rooms in the country particularly in hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and

(c) the steps taken /proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[*English*]

Projects/Scheme from Kerala

392. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects and schemes submitted by Government of Ker-